

this rate attended with a corresponding rise in revenue. Rates were then charged as to weight, distance, and whatever route the mail was sent by the officials. Next, an agitation for distance rates abolition met with a sturdy refusal from the Lords of the Treasury. Such was the system until 1815, when the revenue of the country amounted to £1,500,000 or \$7,500,000 per annum, which continued until 1836. In 1837 Mr., afterwards Sir Rowland Hill, introduced a novel doctrine of postal reform in his noted pamphlet, advocating uniform rate charges, abolition of rates as reference to distance, and numerous other minute transformations especially adapted for mercantile purposes. This proposition was considered, in the view of the officials, as utter extravagance, and it might have been, as usual, ignored, had it not been for the interception of the influential and leading commercial classes, who ignored the proposal. And so it was that, after a brief struggle, postage was reduced to a uniform charge of four pence. Not, however, until December 21, 1839, was a decree issued, and on May 6, 1840, were stamps put before the public, with a reduced uniform charge of only one penny, which has, unto this day, been maintained. The honor of the invention of the first postage stamps lies equally divided between Mr. James Chalmers and Sir Rowland Hill, and between the followers of whom there is a controversy. In 1841 stamps were introduced in the United States and Switzerland, and in three years they were common in France, Belgium and Bavaria. The reduction of charges from the beginning to the present may be stated as follows: 2/6, 1 2, 8d., 4d., and now 1d., which shows the rapid progress it has made. And, instead of mail coaches going at eight miles per hour, we have our mail cars flying at the rate of 50 miles per same period. The system has been introduced into every part of the world, until now we

have a system much to be proud of, and collectors are foremost in acknowledging their gratefulness to the toil of their ancestors.

New York Notes.

BY R. W. A.

R. R. Bogert will be abroad for an indefinite period.

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The typographical appearance of the *Post Office* is what we call "snide." Joseph Holmes is printing it again. Robert Sneider furnishes the cuts, etc.

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New Yorkers have been anxiously awaiting something tangible from Canada in the shape of a nice, lively paper. They will, no doubt, be satisfied now.

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We hear, that a Philatelic marriage is in range, and an editor and publisher of a Philatelic magazine will be the happy recipient of the daughter of a large Metropolitan stamp dealer, as a bride. Who is the fortunate bridegroom?

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The philatelic funny man here is circulating a yarn that there is a plot among New York dealers to depose Queen Victoria and place Mr. N. F. Seebeck on the British throne. This is in order to have a fresh lot of stamps every year for all the British Colonies. Whew!

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He tells another; but it is getting to be a chestnut. He says that seven large New York dealers are to combine and form a company to be incorporated for \$500,000.00. This will entail the discontinuance of three leading monthlies to be superseded by *The Philatelic Standard*, (or is it "*Gazette*"); also that a weekly, four times as large as *McKeel's* will be issued. There are threats of lynching going around.